

# The Sasamani Foundation

2019 Annual Report





## Letter from the Founder



Dear Friends,

2019 was a year of great strides, and I am happy to share this report with you that demonstrates the impact we are having on the people of Tanzania. Some key accomplishments to note:

- Provided critical Health Insurance Cards to all sponsored students, ensuring access to routine and emergency medical care. These cards have been game changing for students with chronic conditions and unexpected illnesses.
- Sponsored students increased from 56 in 2019 to 75 in January 2020.
- Provided new uniforms and shoes to more than 100 students.
- Graduated our first student from the program! (Read more about Abubakar below)
- Launched a beautiful new line of bags, using all locally sourced materials and traditional fabrics.

I encourage you to read on and dig deeper into our mission to learn more about the impactful work we are doing. None of this would be possible without the support of our generous donors. I would like to thank you for your support! It has been a joy and a privilege to work together and achieve real change.

With gratitude,

*Andrew M. Halsey*

Andy Halsey, Founder

# Letter From the Outgoing Executive Director



Dear Friends,

It has been a wonderful year working with the Sasamani Foundation, and it is with more than a twinge of sadness that I am moving on to other obligations. I am so pleased that after an extensive search, we found an amazing candidate in Tialda Frölich-Rienstra. It is with both great confidence and great excitement that I am passing the reins along to such a competent and accomplished successor.

By far the most memorable moments in my year-long tenure occurred during my trip to our project sites in August. Meeting our lovely staff in person, and having the opportunity to meet our sponsored students as well as our tailors felt surreal after learning so much about them through our online materials video conferences. It made the work that the Sasamani Foundation is doing so real and personal that I decided to sponsor not one but three students of my own. I learned how impactful the health insurance cards that we provide are, and I learned that the students are a fun-loving bunch of kids, curious about me and the other visitors, and so grateful for opportunities that they otherwise would not have.

Although I am stepping down in an official capacity, I do not plan to stray far. The mission of the organization has grown too near and dear to my heart to ever fully walk away, and I certainly did 'lay down my heart' in Bagamoyo!

With much love, gratitude, and best wishes for continued success,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Megan Miller".

Megan Miller, *Outgoing Executive Director*





## Vision

**Women and students participating in Sasamani initiatives gain confidence, become self-dependent, and shape their own future as leaders within their communities, workplaces, and families.**

## Mission

**To create sustainable education and employment programs to break the cycle of poverty in East Africa, with a focus on empowering women and girls.**



# Educate

## About The Program

The surest road out of poverty is education. The Sasamani Foundation provides holistic student sponsorships that focus on building self-reliance.

A \$25 monthly or \$300 annual donation covers a student's school fees from middle school through university and ensures each student's basic needs are met such as food, boarding costs, hygiene supplies, school supplies, and transportation. Each sponsor is linked to a student or multiple students. The Sasamani Foundation encourages and facilitates the exchange of letters between students and sponsors.

### Sponsored students 2019

Total number of students 54

Boys 9

Girls 45

Secondary school students 39

High school students 9

College students 6

Students without direct sponsors 10

### Milestones 2019

- Introduced Health Insurance Cards to all sponsored students that will be renewed for as long as the student takes part in the program.
- Supplied 10 exercise books, 1 headlamp and 3 batteries for each sponsored student so they can better prepare for tests when they don't have access to electricity.
- Provided 10 review books for each of the 3

partner schools to promote a conducive learning environment.

- The Education Director visited the partner schools monthly and conducted one-on-one counselling sessions with each of the students regularly.
- Organized a study tour to the US embassy to gain a more global perspective.
- The 25 best performing students went to visit Udzungwa Mountains and learned about fauna, flora and habitations.
- Organized an inter school academic debate, spelling bee and sports competition.
- Hosted an event where former Sasamani college students talked with the current Sasamani students about college and career preparation.

*"In 2019, I graduated from electrical engineering. I have always worked hard so that one day I own a skill to face the life ahead. I work part-time in a car garage now and do other things to support my family. I am still in touch with the family that sponsored my education and I am so grateful for their love and encouragement."*

— **Abubakar**, Graduate, Sasamani Education Sponsorship.



**"It is so rewarding to see a student identify the way towards achieving good academic performance and solve their own issues. Understanding one's strengths and weaknesses is important towards goal attainment, especially for the students from vulnerable families."**

— Gladness Kulola, Education Director

**“The income from the work I received from Sasamani has given me confidence in satisfying my needs. For example, I managed to renovate my working place”**

— Tatu Juma, *Sasamani Tailor*



## Employ

### About The Program

When women work, communities will be uplifted and economies grow. The Sasamani Foundation employs a group of women tailors to sew school uniforms and a collection of bags. With the income earned, the Sasamani tailors have invested back into their businesses, paid for their family's education expenses, and purchased land. The women gained confidence in themselves and their abilities through the program.

The bag collection, including pouches, backpacks, totes and duffels, is available on The Sasamani Foundation's website. By buying a bag, our donors support the tailors' salaries and fund a school uniform for a school child in Bagamoyo, Tanzania.

#### **Milestones 2019**

- Launched new bag designs using 100% locally sourced materials. .
- Continued to employ 9 tailors in the community of Bagamoyo at a fair-market wage.
- Sold 104 Amani Collection bags online to individual customers.
- Made 104 uniforms for primary school students.
- Recruited uniform beneficiaries within the Bagamoyo school district.
- Distributed school uniforms and shoes to grade school students in the community.



**“We have touched the lives of these local tailors in a very special way. It has given them smiling faces. The employment department is growing and our tailors make larger quantities of bags and uniforms now. This is a great achievement”**

— Elias Mmbaga, *Managing Director and Employment Director.*





**“The Women Leading Change models the best practice in international development—don’t assume, ask questions, and believe in other’s capacity to solve their own problems. Through this powerful process, we empower graduates to apply lessons to change their own lives and we continue to offer deeper learning as graduates become coaches for the following cohort.”**

— Erica Mohr, *Sasamani Board Chair and Coaching Facilitator*

## Empower

### About The Program

The Women Leading Change initiative is a leadership program especially designed for East Africa’s emerging women leaders. Together with the University of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania, we created a program to develop women’s leadership skills.

Women Leading Change gathers influencers and experienced educators from academic institutions such as the London Business School (UK), the University of Pennsylvania (US), the University of Agder (Norway), and the University of Dar es Salaam Business School (Tanzania). East African and Western leaders collaborate closely to develop a curriculum, developing culturally valid and appropriate methods to achieve success.

Our graduates will maximize their potential and lead positive change, economic growth, and create a prosperous future for their families, their community and their world.

#### Milestone

- 9 graduates from the 2018 Women Leading Change Program attended a 3-day coach training to prepare them to serve as coaches for the 2020 Women Leading Change cohort. The women learned how to support Women Leading Change graduates as they follow through in their real lives on commitments made in the classroom. In order to practice these skills, they coached one another over the course of the next 4-months.

*“Even being a leader for so many years, I was able to change the way I lead other people, organizations, and staff and started my own businesses. Now, I learned more in depth about the values and responsibilities of being a coach. I am benefitting more and more.”*

— **Mama Thea**, *Women Leading Change Graduate and Coach.*

# Embrace

## About The Program

We have partnered with Connecticut College's Community Action program and annually provide two current students with the opportunity to intern with Sasamani, supporting the operations of our organization and contributing their unique talents and perspectives towards our mission.

The interns spend two months in Tanzania. They learn first-hand about the operations of a non-profit organization while being fully immersed in Tanzanian life. Sasamani's internship program brings our interns, tailors, students, and staff together to work towards a common goal of education and empowerment. In doing so, we hope to foster a new generation of young people who are passionate about making responsible, sustainable, and empowering change.

### Milestones 2019

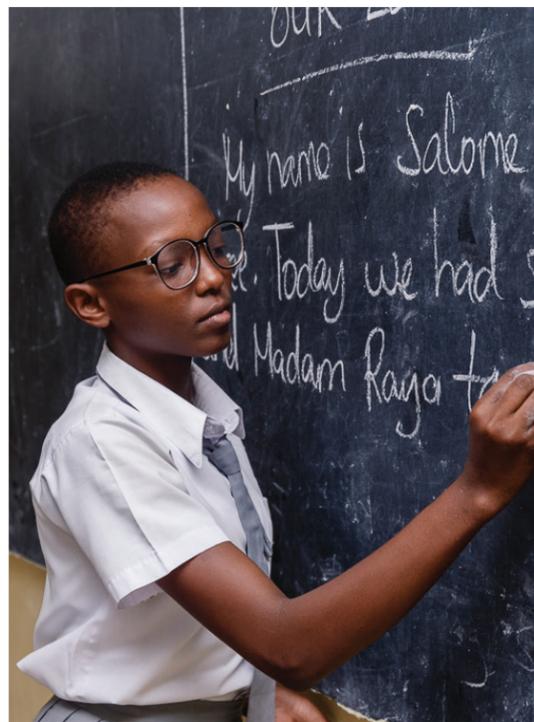
2 college students traveled to Tanzania for an 8 week internship throughout May and June. They:

- Led classes at our partner schools Kingani, Matimbwa and Kiromo Secondary Schools.
- Facilitated lessons and discussions ranging from menstrual sanitation and gender socialization to biology labs, mathematics, English, and computer skills.
- Coordinated Sasamani events, including Women Leading Change cohort events, Teachers' focus group discussions, and Sasamani's Inter-School event.

- Interviewed Sasamani sponsored students and tailors to document their stories.

*"I felt like more than just an intern, but rather, I felt like an integral part of the team. Being involved with everything from event planning to social media marketing to fundraising kept me on my toes and kept my days exciting. No two days across the 8 weeks were alike."*

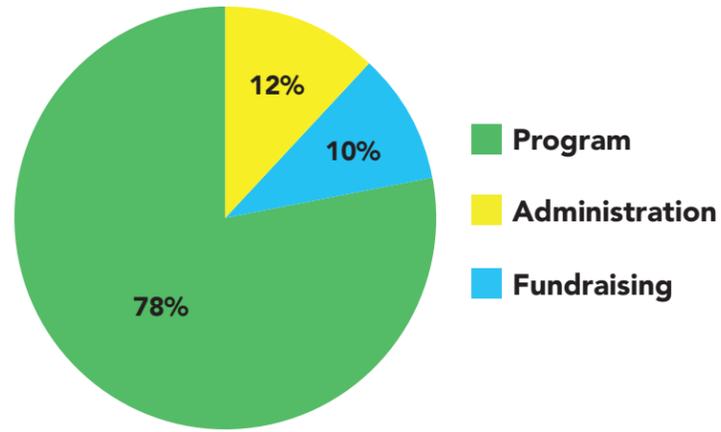
— **Wesley Morris**, Sasamani Intern and Volunteer.



**"It wasn't just working at the office, and filing paper works but I also spent family time with everyone I stayed with. I have learned lessons and experienced the beautiful culture of Tanzania. Thank you for all the good lessons that will stay with me for a lifetime!"**

— *Tihut Getabicha*, Sasamani Intern and Volunteer.

# Financial Statements



## Donations & Income

Education Program	\$18,206
Bag Sales	\$2,541
Unrestricted donations	\$144,197
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$164,944</b>

## Expenditures

Program Expenses	\$127,846
Administration	\$19,119
Fundraising Expenses	\$16,622
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$163,587</b>





# Thank You

## Donors & Volunteers

We are extremely grateful for all the generous donations we have received in 2019 by almost one hundred donors. We are also very proud to have worked with such passionate volunteers who contributed to Sasamani's success in 2019.

Through the support of our highly valued donors and volunteers we were able to further our mission and achieved many great results in 2019, including the introduction of the Health Insurance Card for all sponsored students and the support of many women in Tanzania and East-Africa on their way to become more self-dependent.

## Ways to Give

Especially, in this challenging time globally, we seek your (continued) support to fund The Sasamani Foundation's initiatives and together fight poverty in East Africa. There are various ways to help empower women and students to become self-dependent and shape their own future as leaders within their communities, workplaces, and families. To learn more or to make a donation, please reach out to us directly or contact us via our website.

## Contact Information

The Sasamani Foundation  
P.O. Box 129  
Bagamoyo, Tanzania  
+255 757 203 084

or

PO Box 315  
Old Mystic, CT 06372  
United States of America

[www.thesasamanifoundation.org](http://www.thesasamanifoundation.org)

